

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KUWAIT 03356 141237Z

44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 SY-05

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 IO-13 /063 W

----- 006742

R 140615Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5768

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T KUWAIT 3356

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE, KU

SUBJ: KUWAIT AND THE PLO

REF: JIDDA 4836

1. THE PALESTINIAN COMMUNITY IN KUWAIT, NUMBERING PERHAPS AS MANY AS 275,000, IS REPRESENTED IN VIRTUALLY EVERY STRATUM OF SOCIETY, AND, IN ADDITION TO GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONARIES, INCLUDES LARGE NUMBER OF PROFESSIONAL MEN, MERCHANTS OF GREATER OR LESSER IMPORTANCE AND INFLUENCE, AND SMATTERING OF PEOPLE IN POLICE AND ARMY

(MOST OF LAST GROUP ARE ON VERGE OF, OR HAVE ALREADY, OBTAINED KUWAITI NATIONALITY).

2. THERE ARE NO PALESTINIAN ARMED UNITS ATTACHED EITHER TO KUWAIT ARMY OR EXISTING INDEPENDENTLY UNDER LOCAL PLO OFFICE. AS A MATTER OF FACT, LOCAL SECURITY AUTHORITIES REGARD IT AS ONE OF THEIR TOP PRIORITIES TO SEE THAT PALESTINIANS HERE DO NOT ACQUIRE AIVS. THEY HAVE REPORTEDLY INTERCEPTED SMALL SHIPMENTS INTENDED FOR RADICAL PALESTINIAN GROUPS AT VARIOUS TIMES IN PAST. A PARTICULARLY SHARP VIGIL IS BEING KEPT AT PRESENT, AS TYPIFIED BY NIGHT-TIME ROAD BLOCK WHICH HAVE BEEN INSTITUTED WITHIN LAST MONTH TO IDENTIFY FOREIGNERS HERE WITHOUT RESIDENCE PERMITS. THIS IS AIMED PRIMARILY AT PALESTINIANS.

3. QUESTION OF PALESTINIAN ROLE AND POTENTIAL HERE IS SUBJECT

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 KUWAIT 03356 141237Z

OFTEN REAIDED BY EMBASSY. CONSISTENT VIEW OF SENIOR GOK

OFFICIALS IS THAT KUWAITI PALESTINIAN COMMUNITY DOES NOT REPRESENT THREAT TO GOK BECAUSE, UNLIKE DISPLACED PERSON CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH PALESTINIANS LIVE IN LEBANON, THEY HAVE PERSONAL STAKE HERE IN FORM OF RESPONSIBLE JOBS AND GOOD INCOME AS WELL AS GOOD HOUSES AND CAR OWNERSHIP. NEVERTHELESS, RECENT TENSION IN ARAB WORLD AS RESULT DETERIORATION OF LEBANESE SITUATION ALSO REFLECTED HERE AS INDICATED PREVIOUS PARAGRAPH. MINISTER OF INTERIOR AND DEFENSE SHEIKH SA'AD REVEALED TO AMBASSADOR RECENTLY THAT HIS TOTAL CONCENTRATION ON HIS INTERIOR DUTIES PREVENTED HIM FROM GIVING CONSIDERATION TO CERTAIN MILITARY MATTERS UNDER MUTUAL DISCUSSION.

4. THE QUESTION OF PALESTINIAN INTENTIONS REGARDING KUWAIT IN EVENT OF THREATENED LIQUIDATION OF THE MOVEMENT IN LEBANON IS ALSO A VERY LIVE ONE IN MINDS OF LEADING KUWAITI OFFICIALS AS WELL AS OURSELVES. WE HAVE NOTED THAT IN RECENT PUBLIC APPEALS BY ARAFAT (AND JUMBLATT) TO ARAB GOVERMENTS TO INTERCEDE AND SAVE THE REVOLUTION IN LEBANON, GOK HAS BEEN CONSPICUOUSLY LEFT OUT. WE INTERPRET THIS TO MEAN THAT PLO IS REASONABLY CONTENT WITH SUPPORT IT IS ALREADY GETTING FROM GOK AND, FOR TIME BEING, WE TEND TO GO ALONG WITH ANALYSIS THAT KUWAIT IS TOO IMPORTANT TO PLO TO FOUL PALESTINIAN NEST HERE BY TROUBLE-MAKING. NEVERTHELESS, BECAUSE THIS CONTROL IS NOT COMPLETE, WE WOULD EXPECT MORE UNDIRECTED RANDOM BOMBINGS, AND PERHAPS SOME DEMONSTRATIONS.

5. ACCORDING TO DEPPRIMIN SHEIKH JABER AL-ALI, PLO HAS SOUGHT GOK INTERCESSIONS WITH SYRIANS AND IS HOPING SAUDI-KUWAITI MEDIATION EFFORTS WILL HELP PRESERVE PALESTINIAN PRESENCE IN LEBANON. IN FACT, KHALID AL-HASSEN, FATAH REP HERE AND ANOTHER PLO MEMBER ACCOMPANIED FOREIGN MINISTER SHEIKH SABAH AL-AHMAD TO ARAB LEAGUE FORMIN MEETING WHICH BEGAN JULY 12 IN CAIRO. THUS, INSO FAR AS PLO LEADERSHIP ABLE TO CONTROL ITS FOLLOWERS IN KUWAIT, IT WILL NOT WANT THEM TO JEOPARDIZE CONTINUED KUWAITI DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT OR TO RISK LOSING PALESTINIAN REAR-BASE SAFEHAVEN WHICH KUWAIT REPRESENTS.

6. PRINCIPAL PLO REPRESENTATIVE KUWAIT IS ALI YASIN. FATAH' KHALID AL-HASSAN IS ALSO HERE AND OCCASIONALLY SHARES THE LIMELIGHT WITH YASIN. BOTH OF THEM CONSULT FREQUENTLY WITH
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 KUWAIT 03356 141237Z

INTERIOR AND FOREIGN MINISTERS.
MAESTRONE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PALESTINIANS, MINORITIES, ARMS SHIPMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976KUWAIT03356
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760272-0206
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760760/aaaacarp.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 JIDDA 4836
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <08 OCT 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KUWAIT AND THE PLO
TAGS: PFOR, LE, KU, PLO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006